



## MODULE SPECIFICATION

**Code:** UJUT3J-10-2                      **Title:** Business Law                      **Version:** 2  
**Level:** 2                                      **UWE credit rating:** 10                      **ECTS credit rating:** 5

**Module type:** Standard

**Owning Faculty:** FBL                      **Field:** Law Undergraduate

**Faculty Committee approval:** QSC                      Date:

**Valid from:** September 2009    **Discontinued from:**

**Contributes towards:** Foundation Degree Business

**Pre-requisites:** None

**Co-requisites:** None

**Excluded combinations:** None

### Aims of module

The aims of this module are:

- To understand how law is developed and the sources of English law;
- To develop a sound understanding of the nature of law and an appreciation of the role of law within a business environment;
- To provide an oversight of contract, employment, company law and the sale of goods act and apply them to realistic business situations;
- To develop an understanding of comparative Business Organisations – ie sole traders, partnerships, LLP's and Limited Companies
- To understand the operation of the legal dimension in business decision-making (activities), be able to recognise the existence of legal issues in these dealings and be aware of the ways in which the legal system approaches business problems;
- To develop basic legal skills by the use of legal reasoning and analysis.

### Learning outcomes

#### *Knowledge & Understanding*

On successful completion of this module students will be able to:

1. Describe and illustrate an outline of the English Legal System (Components A and B);
2. Describe the way that the laws of contract, torts, employment and organisations apply to business (Component A and B);
3. Understand and be able to explain the difference between different types of law (Component A and B);
4. Explain the modern court system (Components A and B);
5. Analyse, support and develop case study material (Components A and B);
6. Describe the different business formats which may be adopted and under which businesses may operate (Components A and B);

#### *Subject Specific Skills*

1. Understand and explain the way the English legal System operates, including key aspects of the doctrine of precedent and statutory interpretation (Components A and B);
2. Understand the essentials of a binding contract (Components A and B);
3. Analyse the terms of a contract and identify any vitiating factors affecting a contract (Components A and B);

4. Understand the ways in which a contract may be discharged and the remedies for breach of contract (Components A and B);
5. Understand the difference between an employee and an independent contractor (Components A and B);
6. Understand the distinction between unfair and wrongful dismissal and how employers and employees are affected by employment legislation (Components A and B);
7. Understand how employers and employees are affected by employment legislation (Components A and B);
8. Explain the essential elements of the sales of goods act and the implications on a business (Components A and B);
9. Understand the strengths and weaknesses of operating under different business mediums
10. Identify when social, economic or political considerations may affect the law or its implications (Components A and B).

### *Key Transferable Skills*

The activities of the module are designed to facilitate the development of:

1. Written communication and presentation skills (Components A and B);
2. Independent/self directed study and learning, including time management (in preparation for A & B);
3. IT skills for information retrieval and analysis (in preparation for A & B);
4. Ability to effectively summarise information (Components A and B);
5. Ability to present a coherent argument (Components A and B);
6. Ability to work co-operatively within a group (in preparation for A & B);
7. Ability to transfer theoretical concepts practical situations and legal analysis (Components A and B).

### **Indicative Syllabus outline**

- The sources and classification of English law
- Common Law, Equity, Statute law and EU law
- The court system and forms of dispute resolution
- Essentials of contract law, including formation of contract, express and implied terms and exclusion clauses, discharge and remedies
- Some aspects of the Law of Tort that affect business including negligence and vicarious liability.
- An outline of the Law of Agency
- Introduction to employment law, including employees and independent contractors, unfair and wrongful dismissal
- Comparison of different business mediums
- Aspects of health and safety at work

### **Teaching and learning methods**

The module will be taught through a series of lectures, reinforced by a series of small group seminars/workshops. The lectures are designed to be interactive and will be integrated with practical examples, scenarios and case materials with opportunities for group learning and discussions.

Seminars/workshops will concentrate on discussing in more detail some of the central topics of the module and will be supported by independent and group case study work as well as guided group discussions and exercises. The workshops will provide opportunities for students to apply and discuss their experiences in the work based learning environment through individual and group exercises.

The module encourages the development of independent learning strategies for students. It places emphasis on the acquisition of conceptual knowledge and understanding and its application to increasingly dynamic and complex situations. Students will be encouraged to use a range of reading material to deepen their understanding of marketing theory and to help prepare them for the assessment. To this end, use will be made of Blackboard and students will also be encouraged to utilise the BBS study skills website.

### **Reading Strategy**

All students will be encouraged to make full use of the print and electronic resources available to them at the College and through the University. These include a range of print and electronic journals and a wide variety of web based resources. The University Library's web pages provide information about

and access to subject related sources as well as access to the Library Catalogue. Many of the resources can be accessed remotely. Students will be presented with opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify and use such resources effectively. A reading list will be provided but additional information from journals/newspapers/websites will be made available as appropriate for specific tasks over the module.

**Essential reading**

The essential reading will be specified in the module handbook provided at the start of the module. This is potentially subject to change at short notice and students should not purchase any text without the guidance of the module leader. Examples of the essential reading for this module may include:

Adams (2008) *Law for Business Students*, 5<sup>th</sup> Ed., Harlow: Longman.

**Further Reading**

Students are encouraged to read further from texts, journals, newspapers, and websites and are given guidance on how to identify relevant sources for themselves e.g. through the use of Library catalogues and databases. Up to date advice on reading is provided in the annual module handbook and via Blackboard. The list below is indicative of further reading:

Ewan MacIntyre(2009) *Essentials of Business Law* 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition

Keenan and Riches (2009) *Business Law*, 9th Ed., Harlow: Longman.

**On-Line Resources**

[www.berr.gov.uk](http://www.berr.gov.uk)

<http://www.companieshouse.gov.uk/>

**Assessment**

The assessment has been designed to enable learners to achieve the full range of learning outcomes. The open book exam will enable learners to relate their knowledge and understanding within a vocational context and the legal scenario exercise and essay will enable learners to demonstrate their information organising abilities as well as demonstrating the ability to identify salient information and apply it to business situations so as to create compelling arguments.

**Percentage split** Weighting between components A and B

**A:** 50% **B:** 50%

ATTEMPT 1:

**Assessment Opportunity**

**Component A**

1 Closed book exam (2Hour)

**Element weighting**

100%

**Component B**

1 Legal Scenario Analysis/Exercise (2000 Words)

**Element weighting**

100%

**Second Assessment Opportunity (further attendance at taught classes is not required)**

**Component A**

1 Closed book exam (2Hour)

**Element weighting**

100%

**Component B**

1 Legal Scenario Analysis/Exercise (2000 Words)

**Element weighting**

100%

ATTEMPT 2 (OR SUBSEQUENT): Attendance at taught classes is required.

**Specification confirmed by** ..... **Date** .....

(Associate Dean/Programme Director)